



**TOWN OF MANSFIELD/MANSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

**Mansfield Town Hall
Council Chambers**

MINUTES

Present: Mark Boyer, Fred Baruzzi, Mary Feathers, Anne Willenborg, and Matthew Hart

Absent: Betsy Paterson

Staff: Bill Hammon, Cherie Trahan, Greg Padick, Allen Corson, Curt Vincente, and Jaime Russell

Guest: Rick Lawrence of Lawrence Associates and Brandon Handfield of Anchor Engineering

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Ms. Feathers called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of September 9, 2009 were approved.

3. Opportunity for the public to address the Committee

Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation came forward and informed the committee that he has been receiving phone calls from the public who are questioning what is happening at the fields at Southeast School because they have seen the surveyors at the fields. Mr. Vincente said the fields are very active almost all year long. He also offered his services, his experience and knowledge of the park/fields to the committee. Ms. Feathers thanked Mr. Vincente for coming forward and for the offer of his services.

4. MMS Fuel Conversion Project

Mr. Hammon reported the project is near completion. The final punch list of items is being assembled and will be addressed by the contractor. Mr. Hart reported that when the project was originally bid, the bids came in exceeding the approved grant amount. The project was sent out to bid again, this time using alternates. With the passing of the State's special legislation that carries funding for those alternates that were not originally awarded in the contract, additional local share funding is needed. Mr. Baruzzi stated that Finance is working up financing options and will hopefully have the issue resolved by the end of the month. The contractor has stated that it will take an additional 15 weeks to complete all the alternate and the work should be completed in March. One of the alternates is the music wing and classes will be relocated to the portable classrooms that are not currently being used. He stated that heat is running throughout the building and its quiet compared to the old system.

5. Staff Report

Mr. Hammon introduced Brandon Handfield from Anchor Engineering to provide an update on the septic testing. Mr. Handfield provided a progress report to the committee. In summary, the test results that have been evaluated so far show that the site can be made suitable for a school building accommodating 800 students. To address the issue of interruption of use of the playing fields, he stated that leaching fields could be put in during the winter months and would take approximately two months to complete. Mr. Vicente questioned if an irrigation system could be included at the same time. Mr. Handfield confirmed it could be. Anchor Engineering will finalize their reports once all lab reports are received and will report back to the committee in November.

6. Next Steps

Rick Lawrence of Lawrence Associates provided a slide show showing different conceptual ideas of a building on the Southeast school site. He provided pros and cons to the different conceptual ideas. The most cost effective type of building would be a multiple story building. Mr. Lawrence stated that there is not sufficient space on the property to have a one story building. The committee commented on the different designs and it was agreed that there is a need for a separate gymnasium and a cafeteria could be used as an auditorium. Mr. Baruzzi stated that school administrators concur that they do not want a one school design to be divided by current community schools.

Anchor Engineering will provide their final test results to Lawrence Associates.

Lawrence Associates will put together conceptual plans that will be suitable for the site, and hopefully will be able to present these plans at the November meeting.

Plan to have a combined Town Council – Mansfield Board of Education meeting on November 23, 2009 at 6 p.m. to discuss the committee's findings.

7. Other

Ms. Feathers stated that she will no longer be Chairman of the Board of Education as of the November meeting. She will be replaced by the new Chairman. She would like to be a citizen member on the committee. Committee membership will be discussed at the November meeting.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday November 10, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Ducharme